SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, it is related to question.

MR. SPEAAKER: It is not so.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: What is the justification of spending just 12 million dollars against the 150 million dollars?

MR. SPEAKER: Why did this happen?

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: That is what I want to know. I want complete information because 125 million dollars were sanctioned for the Upper Ganga Irrigation Modernisation plan and only 29.347 million have been spent against it. Similarly 250 million dollars had been sanctioned for the Rihand power transmission and against it only 110 million dollars had been spent by 1989. As the hon. Minister has said the State Government is doing so, I agree to it. I would like to know the detailed information about the reason. To day the situation is that the State Governments are facing acute power crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: If you ask such a long question, it will become difficult for the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: If the hon. Member wants the detailed information about a single project, he should give notice, I will give him the whole information.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, short question, short reply. Now please speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I would like to inform that there are multilateral and bilateral schemes with the Uttar Pradesh Government worth a total sum of Rs. 2450 crore which has not been spent so far. If the State Government spends it, it can get more funds. If the hon. Member wants the details of these schemes, I can send them to him.

SHRI RAHJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be full discussion on this issue as it relates to the entire nation.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Shri Devi Bux Singh.

[*English*]

National Permit for Tourist Coaches

*146. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to give national permit to tourists coaches on the lines of national permit of for goods vehicles;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the time by which the scheme is to come into operation;

(d) whether any priority and concession is proposed to be given to educated unemployed youth, ex-Servicemen, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the handicapped persons in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Tables of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 146 regarding National Permit for Tourist Coaches, asked by Shri pius Tirkey.

(a) to (f). A proposal to finalise a scheme to issue national permits for tourist coaches

on the lines of national permits for goods vehicles was placed before the Transport Development Council in its meeting held on 14th January, 1992. The Council recommended that a detailed scheme taking into consideration various aspects, particularly fee to be charged from tourist coaches, may be finalised by a Committee of Transport Secretaries. The Government have accordingly initiated necessary action to organize this meeting.

As the scheme is yet to be finalised, it is not possible to give details of the scheme or the time limit by which the scheme would come into operation.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that the scheme is yet to be finalised by the Transport Development Council.

I would like to know by which time, this scheme is going to be finalised? Secondly, which are the aspects that are under consideration?

SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER: Sir, the Meeting is taking place on the 9th March in the Ministry of Surface Transport. We are going to discuss the following points. We are going to work out the details for all India Tourists Permits Scheme on the lines od the Naational Permits Scheme for goods carriages with simple composition fees. This will also be on the basis of a recommendation of the Tourism Ministers Conference which took place in 1991. This will also be done for avoiding checking of tourists vehicles plying under the proposed National Permits Scheme in the inter-State checkpoints. It is also to consider the necessity of introducing a separate and special number plate system which will enable their passage freely at the inter-State barriers. This will also determine the quantum of composition fee for national permit for tourist coaches and this will introduce a distinct token for tourist coaches as approved by the Ministry of Tourism. This will also introduce a single point tax collection system.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Is porivatisation of government-owned buses also being considered?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The scheme is still to be finalised. Once the recommendation comes, then only I will be in a position to answer.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAIK: What is the percentage of total number of national permits sanctioned under the category of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? And what is the specific number of national permits sanctioned under this category the State of Orissa?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: At present I do not have the figures. I will lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker Sir, Part (d) of the question is not answered in the main reply. It is not only a question of giving priority or concession. May I know from the hon. Minister whether reservation will be made with regard to national permits for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and handicapped persons?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, a Committee of Secretaries is meeting on the 9th, to finalies the modalities. Until and unless the proposals come, I cannot answer the question. But I will see to it that the hon. Member's wishes are conveyed to the Committee.

Handloom Weavers

*147. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken